6. Sanskrit educational programmes for television and radio as well as for the Indira Gandhi National Open University are also being planned.

7. University Grants Commission also has special assistance programme for conducting Saral Sanskrit Teaching Courses for promotion of Sanskrit. Under the scheme so far 500 centres have been opened.

8. Besides this, several State Governments and Union Territory Governments such as Delhi have undertaken programmes for popularizing Sanskrit Language. Delhi Sanskrit Academy, Delhi conducts various competitions in Shloka Path, Nibandh Lekhan and Udyaman Kavis etc. Some of the State Governments, like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh have set up Sanskrit Academy/Parishad for popularizing Sanskrit.

Encouraging women in the field of Science and Technology

†*475. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given vital importance to encouragement of women in science and technology, in the Tenth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities to be provided to encourage women folks in science and technology during this Plan period; and

(d) the funds earmarked to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Government is presently attaching vital importance to the encouragement of women in Science & Technology and is implementing various schemes such as Science & Technology for women, Biotechnology based programme for women. Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for women, and Women Bio Scientist Award. The total outlay of these schemes during the Ninth plan had been Rs. 1574 lakhs. In the Tenth plan it is proposed to encourage women working in the field of Science & Technology through special incentives such as Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards. Additionally, it is also proposed to introduce special gender sensitive features in these schemes

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through flexible timings, leave options and entry level age relaxation. The emphasis will also be to increase the contribution of women scientist in societal programmes. The earmarking of funds for the new schemes will be done once the specific schemes have been fully concretised and worked out.

Production of spurious/adulterated seeds

*476. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws are considered adequate to nail the producers of spurious/adulterated seeds; and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to take to amend these laws, so as to make them effective?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Seeds Act, 1966 regulates the quality of seeds of only notified kinds and varieties. Government propose to amend the Seeds Act in order to also regulate the quality of seeds of non-notified kinds and varieties and to provide for more stringent penalties for infringement.

J&K under FDA Scheme

*477. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether J&K has been covered under Forest Development Agency Scheme, launched by Government;

(b) if so, how many Divisions have been covered under this programme and how much funds have been released, Division-wise, and what are the details of utilisation of funds; and

(c) whether Government would take up Rajouri and Poonch Divisions this year, on priority, where forests have been degraded ruthlessly?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been covered under the Forest Development Agency Scheme (FDA). The FDAs have been constituted